

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Original) A production system including a production line being a series of a
2 plurality of pieces of production equipment each of which has a parts supply unit, the production
3 system comprising:

4 an NC management apparatus that is connected with each piece of the production
5 equipment via a local-area network and acquires therefrom NC data used for operating each
6 piece of the production equipment; and

7 a scheduling apparatus that generates a production schedule and transmits the
8 generated production schedule to the NC management apparatus via the local-area network,
9 wherein

10 the NC management apparatus generates, for each piece of the production
11 equipment, data that is required to perform production according to the production schedule,
12 obtains, for each piece of the production equipment, differences between current NC data that
13 has been acquired the most recently and the generated data, and outputs the obtained differences.

1 2. (Original) A production system including a production line being a series of a
2 plurality of pieces of production equipment each of which has a parts supply unit, the production
3 system comprising:

4 a LAN port that conducts on-line communications with a scheduling apparatus
5 and each piece of the production equipment via a local-area network;

6 a production schedule acquiring means for acquiring a production schedule from
7 the scheduling apparatus;

an NC data acquiring means for acquiring NC data used for operating each piece of the production equipment; and

a difference obtaining means for obtaining, in terms of each production parameter for each piece of the production equipment, differences between the production schedule and currently held NC data.

3. (Original) The production system of Claim 2, wherein
the production schedule is generated for each version of each production item,
each production schedule showing a version of a production item,
the NC data acquiring means acquires NC data of a version, and
the difference obtaining means obtains differences between the production schedule and currently held NC data, in terms of each production parameter of a version of the currently held NC data.

4. (Original) The production system of Claim 3 including a plurality of production lines each of which is used to mount parts onto a circuit board, and
each production parameter includes a production line ID, a production equipment ID, an effective date, a parts number ID, and an update date.

5. (Original) The production system of Claim 4 further comprising a display means that displays the differences obtained by the difference obtaining means.

1 6. (Original) The production system of Claim 5, wherein
2 the NC data contains an NC program showing a parts mounting position, a parts
3 arrangement program, a board program, and a parts library showing conditions for mounting
4 parts.

1 7-9. (Cancelled).

1 10. (Original) An NC data management method for use in a production system
2 including a production line being a series of a plurality of pieces of production equipment each
3 of which has a parts supply unit, the NC data management method comprising:

4 a production schedule acquiring step for acquiring a production schedule from a
5 scheduling apparatus;

6 an NC data acquiring step for acquiring NC data used for operating each piece of
7 the production equipment; and

8 a difference obtaining step for obtaining, in terms of each production parameter
9 for each piece of the production equipment, differences between the production schedule and
10 currently held NC data.

1 11. (Original) The NC data management method of Claim 10, wherein
2 the production schedule is generated for each version of each production item,
3 each production schedule showing a version of a production item,
4 the NC data acquiring step acquires NC data of a version, and

5 the difference obtaining step obtains differences between the production schedule
6 and currently held NC data, in terms of each production parameter of a version of the currently
7 held NC data.

1 12. (Original) The NC data management method of Claim 11, wherein
2 the production line is used to mount parts onto a circuit board, and
3 each production parameter includes a production line ID, a production equipment
4 ID, an effective date, a parts number ID, and an update date.

1 13. (Original) The NC data management method of Claim 12 further comprising a
2 display step that displays the differences obtained by the difference obtaining step.

1 14. (Original) The NC data management method of Claim 13, wherein
2 the NC data contains an NC program showing a parts mounting position, a parts
3 arrangement program, a board program, and a parts library showing conditions for mounting
4 parts.

1 15-17. (Cancelled)